



## Memorandum

To: Provosts and Chief Academic Officers  
From: Paula K. Compton Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor  
Date: May 05, 2023  
Subject: Endorsement Survey: Industry Recognized Credential Assurance Guide (ITAG) in Welding

---

**Background Information:** The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) is reaching out to collect responses from all two- and four-year Ohio public institutions of higher education regarding a proposed alignment for the Industry Recognized Credential Assurance Guide (ITAG) in Welding.

The Industry Recognized Credential Transfer Assurance Guide (ITAG) is a statewide transfer initiative that guarantees the award of college-level credit to students earning agreed-upon industry recognized credentials. The ITAG initiative was instituted by the Chancellor in February 2021. Students meeting credentialing requirements, regardless of where the learning was achieved, will be eligible to earn credit for specified courses deemed equivalent by faculty and endorsed by Ohio's public institutions of higher education. As some CTAGs use credentials to align with college credit, ITAGs expand the concept of the value of credentials. To reduce variability across Ohio in the transfer credit evaluation and application process, a set of college-level learning outcomes will be established for each ITAG. The set of learning outcomes, which will be aligned with applicable third-party program accreditation, credentialing, and/or other industry standards, will be vetted by faculty and industry as needed.

**Proposed Welding ITAG:** The proposed ITAG would establish a set of statewide learning outcomes for Basic and Advanced Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) courses at Ohio's public colleges and universities and would align standards taken from the American Welding Society's practical welding test to those learning outcomes. If approved, the ITAG would allow students who hold both an AWS D1.1 1" Plate 3G qualification or certification and an AWS D1.1 1" Plate 4G SMAW qualification or certification to be awarded 6 credit hours toward the equivalent course(s), regardless of where the education/training occurred. Those seeking credit would be required to pass the AWS test and provide an up-to-date continuity record or wallet card obtained from an employer, Qualification Testing Facility, Accredited Test Facility, or the American Welding Society.

**What We Need from You:** This memo addresses the need for statewide endorsement of the proposed learning outcomes and the alignment of the standards taken from the credential to those learning outcomes. We ask that **one representative** submit a single



Department of  
Higher Education

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Randy Gardner, Chancellor

response to this survey on behalf of your institution as soon as possible, but no later than **May 19, 2023**. Please forward this memorandum and accompanying attachments to the appropriate faculty. A PDF copy of the survey is included with this memo. The copy is for reference only and responses should only be submitted using the survey link.

Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LQLVL3W>

Ryan Eubank, Lakeland Community College, serves as our lead faculty expert and worked with a faculty panel to complete this alignment.

Thank you for your assistance with this important matter.

Attachments 2